

Country of the Pointed Firs By Sarah Orne Jewett (1849-1909)

The Country of the Pointed Firs (1896) is considered Jewett's finest work, described by Henry James as her "beautiful little quantum of achievement." Despite James's diminutives, the novel remains a classic. Because it is loosely structured, many critics view the book not as a novel, but a series of sketches; however, its structure is unified through both setting and theme. Jewett herself felt that her strengths as a writer lay not



in plot development or dramatic tension, but in character development. Indeed, she determined early in her career to preserve a disappearing way of life, and her novel can be read as a study of the effects of isolation and hardship on the inhabitants who lived in the decaying fishing villages along the Maine coast. (summary from Gutenberg e-text)

Read by Betsie Bush, Kara Shallenberg, James Smith, Frank Woodward, Stephan Gambke, Chip, Michael Shook, Patricia Oakley, & Marian Brown. Total Running Time: 04:25:23

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